

Donald Dworken '51
Dartmouth College Oral History Project
Dartmouth Community and Dartmouth's World
September 28, 2012

DONIN: Today is Friday, September 28, 2012. My name is Mary Donin. We are here in Rauner Library with Dr. Donald Dworken, Dartmouth class of 1951. Okay, Dr. Dworken, so just to put it all into context a little bit, tell us how it is you ended up coming to Dartmouth. How you learned about it and how you made the decision to come here back in 1947.

DWORKEN: I had a vice principal of another school, another high school, whose principal was Dr. [Arthur C.] Sides, who was a Dartmouth grad. And it is through her, Julia Farnham, who sort of was helping me prepare for maybe examinations in English, etc.

DONIN: And this was what high school?

DWORKEN: Bassick Senior High School in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Okay.

DWORKEN: I had a few interviews with Dr. Sides. And he recommended me to Dartmouth, not my own high school because in those days, your college advisors were not what they are today: two rather elderly women at our high school who didn't really advise because they allowed 15 people to apply to Cornell, 20 people to apply to Tufts.

There was no, "Sit down, what do you want?" Etc. etc. It was sort of by hit or miss or relatives or brothers, sisters, something. But there wasn't what is today: people whose business it is not only to advise, but to have certain favorite schools in which they had an in, so to speak—which I did with my children.

So four people applied to Dartmouth, four were accepted. One was the captain of the basketball team, one was our milkman's son, one was the son of a fairly prominent physician in town, and me. Great diversity in selection of religion, what they might do for Dartmouth, and I think at that time they wanted diversity as opposed to two from Deerfield, two from Andover, two from whatever.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: And they got it. Whose influence that was or who decided that Dartmouth would change from pre-Hopkins to John Sloan Dickey, I don't have the slightest idea. But someone decided that. They decided to increase the number of Afro-Americans. They decided to triple or quadruple the number of Jewish applicants. Reasoning, you can only surmise, because Dartmouth as a hard-drinking, rah rah school was certainly well known, as opposed to Yale and Harvard, etc. I think they did it because they felt that it would increase the intellectual approach to Dartmouth. And, just my opinion, perhaps a financial approach to Dartmouth...as it turned out to be later, financially and otherwise.

DONIN: Did you take any kind of admissions test the way they....

DWORKEN: Dartmouth only required an essay.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: I did take the admissions—in New York they call them Regents. Here they called them pre-college SATs or something and for other schools that I applied, to which I was accepted to some and certainly not to Cornell and Tufts with 20 other people. But I decided that Dartmouth was really my first choice, and I wanted to come here. Mainly, or one of the main reasons.... Even at that time Dartmouth had a reputation for being a pre-postop school. Meaning premeds getting into med school virtually 100 percent.

DONIN: Into Dartmouth's medical school?

DWORKEN: No, no. We knew that Dartmouth med school was only two years. And that was even one of the better parts because they took the 4.0s and the 3.9s, and they left us 3.something, 2s and 3s, to go to other American medical schools. Of my class, I think there were approximately a hundred premeds, and I think 99 got into American medical schools, 20 of which got into Dartmouth Med, and some got into Dartmouth Med at the end of three years.

DONIN: Oh, so they'd be three undergraduate—

DWORKEN: Three years undergrad and went to Dartmouth Med.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

DWORKEN: For two and then they had to transfer. And after two years at Dartmouth Med, they could pick their school. You want to go to Harvard.... Because medical schools have their didactic two years and then it's all clinical.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: So there's a lot of room for third- and fourth-year students. And there was absolutely no problem of someone who went to Dartmouth Med for a few years. And so that even made those people who wanted to go to medical school, they weren't in competition with the 20 top guys. Very interesting. And so since I wanted to go into medicine when I was very small due to family reasons, etc., I thought Dartmouth was a very good choice. There was another school that was very interesting that now.... At that time—and this may surprise you—Franklin & Marshall.

DONIN: Really!

DWORKEN: Yes. Franklin & Marshall has an excellent—I know someone who goes there, by the way—excellent prelaw, premed, pre other school. And I was accepted at Bates and a couple of others. But I had decided to come to Dartmouth.

DONIN: Why?

DWORKEN: Reputation, Ivy League, a little bit of snobbery, call it what you will.

DONIN: Did you like the outdoorsy kind of stuff that was going on here?

DWORKEN: Actually not.

DONIN: [Laughs] Okay.

DWORKEN: I played tennis at my high school. I played—I was the third man on it, but one and two never played; they were that good. So I played number one. And when I came to Dartmouth on the freshman team, I was number 11 on an 11-man team. I think I played one or two matches. But I wasn't as good as many others, including a fellow here who was my roommate in med school, who came to med school the same time I did.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

- DWORKEN: The class of '51, Paul Simel. Anyway. And I felt I could get a good education here. It was not that close to home.
- DONIN: Especially without the highway in those days.
- DWORKEN: Yes. Route 5, 210 miles, five hours. Okay. There were trains that came once in a while.
- DONIN: Right.
- DWORKEN: And so I came here. And one of the first things that I noticed was Dartmouth imbued a spirit not only of Dartmouth, but of your class. We wore plebe hats.
- DONIN: Oh, the beanies.
- DWORKEN: Beanies. We participated as a class. And the spirit of '51 existed then and still exists.
- DONIN: So when you got here, who was your first sort of group of pals? Was it your roommates or was it the tennis team?
- DWORKEN: The tennis team was one group. Another group was my bridge team.
- DONIN: Oh!
- DWORKEN: We didn't have a team, but we played bridge.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- DWORKEN: And I had played before, my parents and stuff. And so I was interested in that, and we played bridge at Freshman Commons all hours.
- DONIN: What dorm were you in?
- DWORKEN: I know where it is. I had two roommates. Begins with R?
- DONIN: [Looking at notes.] Hitchcock?
- DWORKEN: Yes. I was in 304—first floor Hitchcock, first room, with two roommates from South Orange, New Jersey. Because my family, my mother's family—and this came into being later—owned a

resort hotel in West Orange. And Maplewood and South Orange, etc. Mostly Maplewood. I had two roommates from there, with whom I did not.... I wasn't that friendly with them. I was more friendly with my premeds.

DONIN: Oh, that was your group, of course.

DWORKEN: Yes, the premeds.

DONIN: Because you studied together?

DWORKEN: Oh, yes.

DONIN: And had classes together.

DWORKEN: Aaron Rausen was my roommate, who died a year ago of pancreatic cancer. Very friendly with Terry Fogarty. These are all premeds.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: We suffered through physics and all sorts of premed courses.

DONIN: Organic chemistry?

DWORKEN: Oh! [Laughter] Unreal. One of the best courses I took as a freshman, the college I'll say threw a fig at a math professor whose name was [Robin] Robinson. And he gave a Math 1 course, no textbook, just everyday things like statistics. The exam you couldn't study for. I still now, 50, 60 years ago, remember one of the questions on the math exam. And I'll throw that at you. [Laughter] Let us assume you had a filing cabinet with four drawers. And you had an equal amount of names—these are people's names—that you wanted to file in these four drawers. How would you know how many letters were by A to D, E to F, F to G. How would you know if you wanted them to be equal?

DONIN: You'd have to count them.

DWORKEN: No, you have a hundred—there are thousands—and then you have to...you keep filling them.

DONIN: Oh, yes. No idea.

- DWORKEN: Go to a telephone book. Divide it in half and then divide it in quarters. You know exactly where the letters are.
- DONIN: Interesting.
- DWORKEN: Because the telephone [book] is an example of people's names.
- DONIN: Dividing up the alphabet, right, right.
- DWORKEN: And that was one of the questions on his final exam. And he had things about statistics, about putting pebbles into holes, and all sorts of thing. And I think he just did it one year. And I guess he was retiring, and the college just wanted.... He always wanted to—I think he wrote a book on it or something like that.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- DWORKEN: So the college decided Math 1 was—they didn't force you into it, but it sounded interesting.
- DONIN: Yes, yes.
- DWORKEN: That was one of the things. But we did study together. We needed a little help with certain things. I found that the math—that the premeds were smarter than most. They were. And the most diverse of most.
- DONIN: Really!
- DWORKEN: They came—they didn't come from prep schools. Most of them were not prep schools. Terry Fogarty came from a high school in Brooklyn, New York. Aaron Rausen's father.... Most of the people in the premed—
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- DWORKEN: —were not, were socially different than the non-premeds.
- DONIN: Right. Mm-hmm.
- DWORKEN: And had more purpose than the non-premeds.
- DONIN: Well, you already.... I mean the premeds know exactly what they need to major in and want to do, whereas....

- DWORKEN: I majored in economics eventually, because I wanted to go to Tuck for a couple of years after all my premed stuff was enough for medical school. And I took a couple of economics courses, and I thought, gee, what if I went to Tuck for two years? How would a medical school look at that? Would they think that I didn't make up my mind? So I decided not to do that.
- DONIN: Make you more well-rounded.
- DWORKEN: Yes. But in those days, well-rounded didn't mean anything.
- DONIN: I know. Yes.
- DWORKEN: You know the fact that I was a master in bridge didn't mean anything.
- DONIN: Right. Not like today when they like to see all that.
- DWORKEN: Right. I didn't play the harp either.
- DONIN: Well, this was still the postwar era, and everybody was all about getting back to work and getting a career and getting a job.
- DWORKEN: Right. And a lot of prelaw students.
- DONIN: Yes, business.
- DWORKEN: We had that same diversity when in my junior year, we didn't—a group of us sort of got together and didn't want to live in Wigwam Village.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- DWORKEN: Which is where the naval... I don't know if they still exist. They probably don't. I hope they tore them down because they looked like a motel.
- DONIN: [Laughs] They're gone.
- DWORKEN: They're gone. And it seems that at that time there wasn't enough housing. So freshmen got preferences to live "on campus." Seniors, one third to one quarter lived in fraternity houses.

DONIN: Oh, right. Of course, yes.

DWORKEN: Sophomores were treated better than juniors. Juniors got the short end of the stick as far as housing was concerned.

DONIN: So was that year that you moved to Wheelock?

DWORKEN: We moved to 21 Wheelock Street— 18 Wheelock, because I saw it on my way coming here.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: And I saw that house. There was a class of '52 [group] living across the street also. And I know some of them: Jerry Barton was one of them.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: Then he became a physician, an orthopedist, in Norwalk. I knew Jerry very well. So there were different groups.

So one of the things that happened was.... Fraternities at that time—this is one thing I liked about Dartmouth—were really low on the totem pole as far as allegiance is concerned. It was to your college, it was to your class. It was even more to the people you palled around with. Fraternities were just social events, as opposed to many, many other schools, where they used to meet you—I've heard stories—they'd meet you on the train.

DONIN: Oh! And recruit you.

DWORKEN: And recruit you.

DONIN: Oh.

DWORKEN: That happened, you know. And also you could join a fraternity at many places like Cornell, Syracuse, etc., those I know, as a freshman, whereas you were not allowed to enter a fraternity house as a freshman at Dartmouth.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: That was the rule.

DONIN: The rushing thing didn't start until the fall.

DWORKEN: In sophomore year.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: Now we'll talk about religion.

DONIN: Yes, that was my next question.

DWORKEN: Because that played a part. The house we lived in at 18 Wheelock only had, of the seven who lived there, one or two that became members of Pi Lam—Pi Lamda Phi—I think it is. Pi Lam was 90 percent Jewish.

DONIN: Oh, so that was known as the Jewish fraternity?

DWORKEN: The Jewish fraternity was Pi Lam.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And were you welcome at the other ones?

DWORKEN: No—

DONIN: I mean once you identified as being Jewish, are you welcome at the other fraternities?

DWORKEN: You know I think the other fraternities had their token Jewish member.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

DWORKEN: Especially ones who really did not pal around with other Jewish people, Jewish students. I won't put their names down because one of them is the brother of—one of them is the brother [a member] of my country club. And one recently died—whatever. But we know who they were. And they had one, maybe two, Jewish members; the rest were not. Some of them even had non-Christian clauses in their national.

So this great increase in Jewish students created not a necessity but a feeling, a left-out feeling, that there was no place—if they wanted to go into a fraternity, where to go? Because Pi Lam had, every place had like, as I remember, 64 members, period, of which one fourth lived in the house with no eating in the house. So they

weren't like other schools where fraternity was *it*. This was like fourth on your list. But it was nice, socially, on big weekends.

DONIN: The big weekends.

DWORKEN: The big weekends: Carnival, Green Key.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: Et cetera. And a place where you could just gather and play cards or whatever.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: So, from this 18 West Wheelock, there were four or five guys, and there were others on campus, we decided there should be a place for us to go if we wanted.

DONIN: Us meaning Jewish—

DWORKEN: Jewish members.

DONIN: —members.

DWORKEN: But we also felt that it shouldn't be all Jewish. Why not have a fraternity that everyone was welcome and not just hockey players in one and basketball players in another, the Dekes, the Betas, whatever. There was one local fraternity, but all the rest were not.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: Sixteen or 18 or whatever the number was. So we got together a group of—I think there were about 13 of us. It was either seven and six or eight and five. And we said, let's do it.

DONIN: And the numbers you mentioned are what, seven Jews and six non-Jews?

DWORKEN: Seven Jews and six non-Jews.

DONIN: I see. Okay.

DWORKEN: Okay?

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: And so we started shopping around for nationals. But only predominantly Jewish ones because the non-Jewish ones would not accept seven and six or eight and five. As a matter of fact, there was one that only took Jewish members.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: Which we negated in a minute. I mean, we just forgot it. So we tried to make deals with about two or three nationals that had many, many chapters all over, from California to the South, maybe 30, 40, whatever. And we talked to executive secretaries of these places, and we needed financial backing, which consisted mostly of not paying the initiation fees that every other house paid and keeping them in the house and other things—freebies, call them what you will—for a few years, until we got going.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: Of course we needed a house. And we knew that 15 Webster, which is the end of Fraternity Row, was not being used. It was nursing students at Hitchcock.

So one of us had a financial background. His name was Clarence Palitz, Jr. He was a breast stroker, big guy, six foot three, weighed about 230; he was a breast stroker on the swimming team. And he and I sat down and made a financial statement of how much this, how much we would get for these guys paying rent, how much we would have for our activities, what our expenses were. It was like maybe Enron. [Laughter] I mean it really didn't—it would not be closely scrutinized and come true.

So we met with President Dickey, and we told him what we wanted because he also really wanted the fraternity system to change. And we showed him that we could exist financially, that we could afford to pay rent to the college, etc., which was minimal. And we would take care of the place, and we would fill it up, etc. And we'd have pledge classes. And we would remain nonsectarian. So he said okay.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: So we had the 13 of us in 1950 because I lived there only one year. And it was 1950 to '51.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: And we remodeled the house. Made a great basement which was lovely. And we started having the usual parties and stuff. I appointed myself fire marshal so I could... On Green Key, someone had to sit downstairs with his girlfriend or whatever.

DONIN: [Laughs] Right.

DWORKEN: I made myself fire marshal. [Laughter] And my roommate was Harvey Goldstock. And I'll never forget: He loved cold air. I did not like cold air. So we would spend many a night his opening the windows and I getting up and closing them. I can remember it like it was tomorrow [yesterday?]. And his father, the family, owned a sporting goods from Schenectady. They owned a sporting goods place. And we had... John Gambling was one of our members.

DONIN: Oh! As in the radio guy?

DWORKEN: Yes, his son.

DONIN: Oh.

DWORKEN: Junior. Let's put it this way. I think we put him in because of his name and, you know, whatever. But we did have a good group.

DONIN: So was it your feeling that this group was made up of people who had either not been able to join other fraternities....

DWORKEN: Because either religion or because there wasn't room.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: There were more students.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: And the other fraternities could not enlarge.

DONIN: Yes.

DWORKEN: And there were another 65—our class was like 700. But 18 times 64, it was only sophomores, juniors, and seniors that could join.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: So it would, you know, be fun for us and doing it was fun for us.

DONIN: Did you have a sense then—I mean now you can look back on it and have that sense—but when this was happening, did you have the sense that you were sort of making a statement about having this nonsectarian....

DWORKEN: Well, the statement came later.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

DWORKEN: Oh, we played football against Pi Lam, and we beat them.

DONIN: [Laughs] That's a statement.

DWORKEN: That was a statement.

DONIN: Yes.

DWORKEN: Intramural football.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: So then we had our first pledge class.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: I think Julian Robinson—and you might interview him; there's another one. Not Julian. If you could look up the class picture, as I did, I think his name was Ed West, but I'm not sure.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

DWORKEN: Ed West, they were—and remind me later to tell you what happened to Ed West because he's still around, and I spoke to him. Our class, we took two Afro-Americans. I think Julian Robinson was a runner, and Ed West, I don't know what he did, but he was premed. And we took them in as pledges, 20, because we wanted to catch up to the 64, you know, within three years or so. And we

took this pledge picture, and all the nationals want their pledge pictures. And we sent a picture to Sidney Sonntag. He was the executive secretary of Tau Epsilon Phi at the time. And it didn't take long, maybe a couple of days, before I got a phone call because I was the one who negotiated with him, Cal Palitz and I did the negotiations, and I even remember what he said: "What are you fellows doing? We have 20 chapters in the South."

DONIN: Oh....

DWORKEN: "We have four chapters in Georgia like Georgia Tech, Georgia, Emery, and one other." Where I don't remember. "And we don't have any Afro-Americans in our national. We don't have any Afro-Americans."

DONIN: Well, you do now. [Laughs]

DWORKEN: I said, "Yes, you do." And he said, "Well, at least, you know...." Well, he really didn't say, I can bury this picture, but he said, "Just do your thing." And that's the way it is.

DONIN: Hmm. So you broke the race barrier.

DWORKEN: We broke the race barrier of Tau Epsilon Phi.

DONIN: Wow.

DWORKEN: And at that time, in the '50s, there was... I mean he didn't say it, but I didn't think he would be very happy if one of these guys went into Tau Epsilon Phi in Georgia Tech and said, here I am. [Laughter] It was not going to be. But I told him that this is not that type of place. It's isolated, number one. Number two, the whole school atmosphere was more Afro-Americans and more diversity, more Jewish members, more whatever. That we thought that it was the beginning of a different time at Dartmouth. And that basically that's, you know, that's the way it was. And he's going to have to accept that. And so that's what we did.

I think it's Ed West because I wanted to call up one of them before I wrote that little letter to the editor. And I had the picture, and I had the name.

DONIN: Oh, so I have that.

- DWORKEN: Maybe it's there.
- DONIN: I have the letter to the editor right here.
- DWORKEN: Yes, but I don't know if I mentioned him.
- DONIN: Oh, Edward Wood.
- DWORKEN: Wood—that's it.
- DONIN: "Our first pledge class included Edward Wood, class of '53, the first Afro-American in the TEP national."
- DWORKEN: No. The first Afro-American to be admitted to the University of Virginia Medical School.
- DONIN: Oh! Oh, yes, you go on and say that.
- DWORKEN: And he still is living—at least as of last year—lives on Long Island and is still practicing a little bit.
- DONIN: Oh, ophthalmologist on Long Island. Yes.
- DWORKEN: That's right. And he can be looked up and talked to, and he was very gregarious over the telephone.
- DONIN: Oh!
- DWORKEN: And he might be an interview.
- DONIN: That's a great idea.
- DWORKEN: He might be someone that will tell you his experiences, etc., and how Dartmouth affected his ability to become the first Afro-American student at Virginia Medical School.
- DONIN: So did you ever experience any pushback or negative reaction from your classmates or....
- DWORKEN: Oh, no. No one cared.
- DONIN: Or anybody? No one cared?

DWORKEN: No one cared. In fact they were very happy because we always had extra beer. [Laughter] We didn't drink as much as most others. We had fewer members.

DONIN: Right, right.

DWORKEN: You know. So we're at the end of the line, if the beer ran out or something.

DONIN: They came to you.

DWORKEN: We got the smallest quarter keg we could, and that lasted for whatever it lasted.

DONIN: Yes.

DWORKEN: And our milk-punch parties were a lot of fun. Sunday morning or whatever. And then in my senior year, because of the multitude—that there were more Jewish students, I went to my grandmother who was very, very philanthropic. I mean, anyone of the old Jewish rabbinical students or whatever, always could come to this huge hotel, 500 people. It was like the Concorde basically.

DONIN: Oh, this is the one who lived in New Jersey.

DWORKEN: New Jersey.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DWORKEN: So I mentioned to her that it was a pity that we had a significant number of Jewish students now, and we are not going to... I can't come down just for the High Holy Days, etc. It's just too much of a trip. And it's too bad that we don't have anything to do up there.

DONIN: Oh.

DWORKEN: You know as far as that. And she promptly sent us a Torah.

DONIN: Wow!

DWORKEN: I'm sure it's still here. I wondered what services they had here for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. And prayer books.

DONIN: Wow!

- DWORKEN: So she donated a Torah to Dartmouth, and I think we got a rabbinical student to come and have services here the first year in 1950.
- DONIN: Yes. Was there any place for Jews to gather for services?
- DWORKEN: Yes, we did it in Rollins.
- DONIN: Rollins? Yes. They still do that.
- DWORKEN: We did them in Rollins.
- DONIN: Yes.
- DWORKEN: I don't remember how many, maybe 20, 30, whatever.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Any faculty, any Jewish faculty participating?
- DWORKEN: No, not that I remember. But anyway, so that's what we did. And we had a rabbinical student. As a matter of fact, one of our class did become a rabbi, Bill Loeffler. I think he'll be here now, you know. I think I saw him last....
- DONIN: So is it a fair statement to say that you came here and searched out other Jewish students?
- DWORKEN: Yes. It's not... You don't search out.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- DWORKEN: It just happens. It happens. Especially in the premed group.
- DONIN: Oh, I see.
- DWORKEN: Jerry Block was one. Aaron Rausen was another. Bob Sirkin was another. Dave Baum was another.
- DONIN: Goodness!
- DWORKEN: Bob Sirkin and Dave Baum lived with us at 18 West Wheelock. Bob Sirkin just retired from orthopedics in New Britain. I saw him at meetings later.

- DONIN: Were they part of the founding group of TEP?
- DWORKEN: No. They were not.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. So was that.... I mean when you think of your Dartmouth community, is it made up of mostly your premed friends?
- DWORKEN: A lot of them, yes. Because we all had classes together.
- DONIN: Yes.
- DWORKEN: I mean who else would take organic chemistry? It would only be premed.
- DONIN: Yes.
- DWORKEN: And except for Cal Palitz, I don't think that any of them really were on the hockey team or the basketball team. You know, we weren't the jocks of the school at that time.
- DONIN: Right. Did you ever experience anti-Semitism here or see anybody experience it?
- DWORKEN: Not really. Only in the selection of who joined the fraternities.
- DONIN: Oh, so it was sort of kept under wraps.
- DWORKEN: They did not seek out Jewish members. They just didn't.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Was that because...?
- DWORKEN: You know I think it was a.... They were not raised that way.
- DONIN: Right.
- DWORKEN: They were at that time—and I'll use a bad word—the WASPS were the WASPS.
- DONIN: Yes.
- DWORKEN: I mean after all, we'd never even thought of having a Catholic president.
- DONIN: Right.

- DWORKEN: So they selected roommates from their prep schools. It would be interesting to know what percentage of our class and later classes were high school as opposed to prep school. I think you'll find out that from, you know, Hopkins' days to Dickey's days, the percentage has changed tremendously.
- DONIN: Right, right. The sort of feeder schools that sent up 30 or 40 students from their prep schools, I think those were diminished because both Dickey—and certainly followed by John Kemeny—did a tremendous amount of outreach to diversify the student body by visiting high schools, urban high schools.
- DWORKEN: Yes.
- DONIN: Looking for.... Kemeny looking for math and science students primarily.
- DWORKEN: And he found them to be more prominent than at prep schools. Maybe a few prep schools like Andover, Exeter. My son went to Taft.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- DWORKEN: And my daughter did, for a while. Taft was too hard for her, too much math and science. That was not her thing. So she transferred to a school that's just as hard to get into now. She went to Peddie.
- DONIN: Oh, yes. In New Jersey.
- DWORKEN: In New Jersey. It's a very fine prep school now.
- DONIN: It is.
- DWORKEN: Now it's way up there.
- DONIN: Yes.
- DWORKEN: With Annenberg money. But anyway....
- DONIN: So did you sense that the African-American kids here were experiencing the same situation? I mean, did they form a fraternity?
- DWORKEN: No.

DONIN: No?

DWORKEN: No, because I think after that, as the major article in that issue [of the alumni magazine], the attitude towards the students changed. And I think they changed because the prep school gang was less, and the high school gang was more.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: And the diversity was in the high schools.

DONIN: Yes.

DWORKEN: At that time. Started to be more and more. So that more and more guys would apply because they knew that they were able to get in, you know. And Dartmouth, I think, actually, as you say, went out to try to raise the intellectual level at Dartmouth. And they've succeeded. And they've also, I think, profited by it, not only by reputation, but I think by.... [Alan] Al Brout is a very fine—is a good friend. We play, what do you call it? He gave me orchids. You know the orchid thing? That's his.

DONIN: Wow!

DWORKEN: He'll be here this week. I played golf with him last week. It's amazing. Three of us have played—we all live within 20 miles, and we all belong to different clubs. Bob Hopkins, Al Brout and myself. And we have a round robin golf amongst the three of us. That three guys who stayed together and are still alive from the class of '51. We're going to have our tenth anniversary next year. We've done it for nine years.

DONIN: Tenth golf anniversary? [Laughter]

DWORKEN: Golf anniversary next year. And we all send a picture, and we all wear yellow shirts. This year I wore something a little deeper yellow; they didn't like it. It was a more vivid yellow.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: I told them the other one had a couple of cuts in it or something.

DONIN: So these are people that you met at Dartmouth?

- DWORKEN: Yes, yes.
- DONIN: And you're still hanging out with, as they say.
- DWORKEN: Oh, I don't know him too well, but the head of the board of trustees is from Greenwich.
- DONIN: Oh, Mandel, Steve Mandel.
- DWORKEN: I see him at—usually, can't do it this year. At Christmas, one of the department stores, Mitchell's, who all their kids went to Dartmouth. It's a department store called Richards, but it's the Mitchell family.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- DWORKEN: And they have the glee club come. And this year.... Last year they had the girls and the boys.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- DWORKEN: And the people who got early admission in December, you know, who were admitted from that area, all came with their families. There were almost like 70, 80 to 100 people. And this very large family department store. And he's from Greenwich. So it's a legacy. How many other '51s? Well, I see a lot of '52s. And these mini reunions like as we're having now, they promulgated a spirit—
- DONIN: Yes.
- DWORKEN: —of, you know, giving to Dartmouth. I haven't given them a building yet. But, you know.... [Laughter] But one of my classmates did. Charlie Gilman did.
- DONIN: Oh, yes. Of course. Right. So these mini reunions, has that introduced you to members of your class that you didn't know when you were an undergraduate?
- DWORKEN: Yes. I find these mini reunions and reunions are the biggest levelers of the world. John Clayton, captain of the football team, didn't know I exist, and others who walk in on crutches or a cane or look at.... What we've all done—we've all made our mark somewhere, most of us. And there's nothing.... No one.... It's a

leveler. He could have been CEO of IBM; it doesn't make any difference. He isn't now.

DONIN: So what you're saying now is for these reunions, at this stage of your life, it doesn't matter who was the football captain in 1950.

DWORKEN: That's right. Absolutely not. Absolutely not. As a matter of fact, I was looking for Dick Pew, who was—we wintered, ever since I retired in 2004, we went to La Jolla. So we became friendly with Richard Pew, who was a law professor. He might be someone to interview. Who retired from a law firm in New York and moved to California, to La Jolla, and started teaching at San Diego State Law School, until this year.

DONIN: Oh!

DWORKEN: And now is finally retired and lives in White Sands. And he comes here every summer for a month. I think he has a summer place which he rents out in Quechee or something. But he still lives in California. And I was trying to reach him because I wanted—oh, I needed some legal advice from someone from California. So I called him, and someone—Hank Nachman—told me that John Clayton kept in touch with Dick Pew. So I called John Clayton. And, “Oh, hi, Don! How are you?” You know, it took 60 years to say, “Hello, Don!” But now it is.

DONIN: Interesting.

DWORKEN: Very interesting. And you know something? The 25th was not it.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: Because we were all—

DONIN: Still achieving.

DWORKEN: —trying to do our achieving. The 50th really did it because most people, either they're retired or whatever. But now? There are widows, you know.

DONIN: So you're saying the leveling takes place because of time, the passage time.

- DWORKEN: Time. And also I think most people—except one whom I can think of—most people, have put that behind them. It didn't make any difference who they were or what they were, you know, what job they had, whether they were on the football team, non-football team. Whether they were the hockey players. Like Mike Choukas here.
- DONIN: Right.
- DWORKEN: You know. And Tex Weingarten. And of course Henry [Nachman] is so involved.
- DONIN: Well, he's one of those guys who actually lives here now.
- DWORKEN: That's right. And so do they. Mike lives here.
- DONIN: The Choukases live here.
- DWORKEN: And I think Tex lives here now, too.
- DONIN: Yes.
- DWORKEN: And I'm sure there are others; because the trend now for people who retire and want to continue mental and social activities are gravitating toward college towns.
- DONIN: Right.
- DWORKEN: I'm sure there are.... Even if they didn't go to that college. Because I'm sure Duke experiences that.
- DONIN: Sure.
- DWORKEN: And the University of North Carolina. The people gravitate toward those places because there is maybe culture with a small c. It t'ain't New York. But there's activity, there's youth.
- DONIN: A medical center.
- DWORKEN: Yes, a medical center. Most of them do have medical centers.
- DONIN: Yes.

- DWORKEN: People are gravitating to that rather than maybe Florida. But Florida has things you can't do in....
- DONIN: Can't play golf here most of the year.
- DWORKEN: I'm just having too much fun with that. Oh, I officiate at golf tournaments, and I'm on the boards.
- DONIN: Good.
- DWORKEN: And you can't give that up.
- DONIN: No.
- DWORKEN: But otherwise, I think these mini reunions are fun. I think they're a diversion.
- DONIN: Sure.
- DWORKEN: You know, something different. And the one thing I spoke to Mandel about was the fact that the 60th...when you reach 60 years, you don't march at commencement anymore. And I think that because people are living longer, that they should raise that to 70. No, seriously.
- DONIN: No, it's true. The 50th reunion... I think they just had a 75th reunion here last spring.
- DWORKEN: That's right.
- DONIN: It's amazing.
- DWORKEN: Yes. So, you know, why should we—
- DONIN: Right. Fade into the sunset. [Laughter]
- DWORKEN: That's right. I'll still contribute.
- DONIN: Right. That's the other thing.
- DWORKEN: Everybody contributes differently. We had one member of our class whom you can't interview, who left a lot of drawings and stuff—his name was Wolf—to Dartmouth, to the Hood Museum. Jay Wolf.

DONIN: Oh. Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: I gave Dartmouth several paintings, one of which hung at the old Hood.

DONIN: Oh.

DWORKEN: It was from there to there. And it was like musical flowers and whatever. And hung there for years. And there's one of Dr. Seuss that I gave them. And maybe one—whatever. But I think Dartmouth has imbued more spirit than anyplace I know. And it all started with John Sloan. You know, with Dickey. And Kemeny, etc. Because I think that.... But it probably started before then. But now it reaches out to more people, different types of people.

DONIN: So what do you think of when you visualize the Dartmouth community today? How is it different from when you were here?

DWORKEN: Well, besides the women....

DONIN: Obviously, right.

DWORKEN: Obviously. I think there's a lot of competition amongst colleges now, especially for money, tremendous competition. I think some of the other schools—some of the other Ivy League schools—have tried to do what Dartmouth has done: raise the level. I know one in particular that I always—Brown. I never thought of Brown. In 1951 Brown was a color. It wasn't a school. And my coming from Bridgeport, the thought of being in Providence was absolutely devastating. There was no way I was going to go to Providence. OK? [Laughter] And I think, you know, Cornell used to be a New York school. Now it's not. It's a med school and....

DONIN: It's a state school, right.

DWORKEN: Yes. And schools have changed. The Ivy League has changed. And Harvard's still Harvard, and Yale is still Yale. They talk to each other occasionally. But a lot of my friends went to Yale Law School in the '50s.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DWORKEN: When they opened up.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: As a matter of fact, as I told you, the girl in the picture—

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DWORKEN: Hopefully, we can take a picture of.

DONIN: Yes. We have to go do that.

DWORKEN: Okay.

DONIN: Right.

DWORKEN: Maybe it's stopped raining.

DONIN: Yes.

DWORKEN: Married Harry Wellington, who was the dean of the Yale Law School.

DONIN: Great.

DWORKEN: I spoke to her when he died and I called her on the phone. So I think that Dartmouth has grown through the efforts of the president. I met Dr. Kim. I bowed and said, [phonetic "ony hashamika"]. And he nearly fell to the ground. Because I spent a year and a half in Korea. I ran a MASH hospital there.

DONIN: Oh, wow!

DWORKEN: In peacetime. It was 1956, '58 and I volunteered. If you could practice outside the Army, you could practice in the Army, even though you may be blind, death, and whatever. And so they sent me to Korea. I was single. The married guys went to Germany and wonderful places. I saw KOREA on his forehead. And we had our interview—I spoke German, and he still didn't send me to Germany. But anyway, so I ran a MASH hospital.

DONIN: Dr. Kim must have loved meeting you.

DWORKEN: It was really fun, you know. It was really fun. But now we're searching for another president.

DONIN: Yes. Now we are. That's for another conversation.

DWORKEN: Yes. That's not where I go.

DONIN: Okay.

DWORKEN: Okay?

DONIN: I think we should turn off the recorder and go outside and get the picture so we can take a photograph of it.

DWORKEN: You'll love the picture.

DONIN: I know I'm going to love it.

DWORKEN: Because it is part of Dartmouth history.

[End of Interview]